



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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Orleans Parish man arrested a second time for illegal dumping in New Orleans East

BATON ROUGE – Yesterday, officers with the New Orleans Police Department 7th District arrested an Orleans Parish man on an outstanding warrant for the alleged illegal dumping of solid waste in New Orleans East. The arrest warrant was signed on June 25, 2013, and originated during an investigation conducted by the Criminal Investigation Division of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality.

Cecil Person, 48, of New Orleans, is alleged to have dumped six truck loads of construction and demolition debris, near the 8800 block of Old Gentilly Road, New Orleans, Louisiana, in March 2013. The construction and demolition debris originated from the partial demolition of the Renaissance Retirement Home on Chef Menteur Highway. Person was allegedly hired to haul the waste to the Gentilly Landfill. Instead, Person hauled the waste to an illegal dumpsite on Old Gentilly Road and dumped it. DEQ investigators determined that Person did not have the permit necessary to operate a landfill and was illegally disposing of the solid waste. If convicted, Person faces possible imprisonment of not more than one year and a criminal penalty of \$25,000 per violation and/or both on each count.

Person was previously arrested by DEQ-CID investigators on December 8, 2010, for the same types of violations at the same location. Person pled guilty to the December 2010 charges in Orleans Parish Criminal District Court on November 8, 2011, and was ordered to remove 100 truck loads of solid waste from the illegal dumpsite on Old Gentilly Road. Person is still on probation from this November 8, 2011, conviction, and has not yet removed the 100 truck loads of waste.

A probation revocation hearing has been set for today in Section C of Orleans Criminal District Court before the Honorable Benedict Willard.

“Anyone who knowingly engages in illegal dumping will be aggressively prosecuted by DEQ and its local, state and federal partners as we continue to work closely to put an end to illegal activities that are detrimental to human health and the environment,” said DEQ Secretary Peggy Hatch.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Criminal Investigation Division, Louisiana State Police, Orleans Parish Criminal Sheriff’s Office, and the New Orleans Police Department have worked alongside DEQ’s Criminal Investigation Division in the past to conduct surveillance of the Almonaster Boulevard and Old Gentilly Road area. It is imperative that anyone with information on any illegal dumping activity inform DEQ by calling in, reporting the incident anonymously or by completing an online incident reporting form at: <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/apps/forms/irf/forms/>.

The mission of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality is to protect the environment and public health. Any persons with knowledge of any spills, releases, odors, fish kills, open burning, waste tires and any other types of environmental incidents may contact the department at 225-219-3640 or Toll Free 1-888-763-5424.

An arrest does not constitute guilt in a criminal case and all subjects are presumed innocent. All evidence compiled during the investigation is presented to the area prosecutors who determine if formal charges are warranted.